



TEENS, CRIME, AND THE COMMUNITY

YOUTH IN SERVICE

RAISING AWARENESS: INHALANTS AND YOUTH

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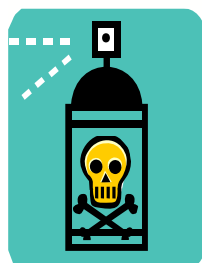
Mark Your Calendar!

FEATURED THIS MONTH ON THE WEB

The NCP website has been updated! Check out the new website at www.ncpc.org. To access TCC, click on the "Programs" link.

TCC Crime Prevention Grants

The third application deadline for the TCC \$500 crime prevention grants is April 1, 2006. The final grant application deadline is June 1, 2006. To obtain a copy of the grant application as well as guidelines, visit www.ncpc.org and click on TCC under the "Programs" link. Remember, National and Global Youth Service Day is April 21-23, 2006. Plan your service project, and submit a grant application!



National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week is March 19-25, 2006.

Inhalant use is the intentional inhalation of breathable chemical vapors that produce hallucinogenic effects. Inhalants can be found everywhere; cooking sprays, gasoline, whipped-cream cans, correction fluid, and video head spray cleaners are among the sources of toxic vapors. Inhalant use is common among young people. In fact, "One [in] five students in [the United States] has used an inhalant to get high by the time he or she reaches the eighth grade" (National Inhalant Prevention Coalition, NIPC, www.inhalants.org).

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA, www.drugabuse.gov) reports that most of the inhalant abusers are young teens in seventh, eighth, or ninth grade. While it is important to teach children and youth about drug abuse in all forms, inhalants are one of the first drugs children encounter because they are readily available in most homes.

Inhalants present very real dangers. According to NIDA, "Even a single session of repeated inhalant abuse can disrupt heart rhythms and cause death from cardiac arrest or lower oxygen levels enough to cause suffocation. Regular abuse of [inhalants] can result in serious harm to vital organs including the brain, heart, kidneys, and liver."

Common signs of inhalant use are an unusual breath odor or chemical odor on clothing, slurred or slowed speech, a general drunken appearance, paint or other products on the face or fingers, red or runny eyes or nose, spots or sores around the mouth, and nausea and loss of appetite. If you notice a teen displaying these signs, it is important to confront him or her. If you find that the teen is using inhalants, professional medical help should be administered immediately to help in the cessation of inhalant use—an inhalant user could die from the first huff or from any following abuse.

It is important to talk to teens about the dangers and consequences of inhalant use. *Community Works Session 20* includes a three-page handout focused on the health hazards caused by inhaling specific chemicals, as well as a handout describing situations where teens may encounter drugs. Teens can role-play how to refuse when their peers offer them drugs.

For a free copy of *Community Works Session 20*, email tcc@ncpc.org. For more information about inhalant abuse and National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week, contact NIPC at www.inhalants.org.

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS 2005 SCHOOL SAFETY REPORT

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) recently published *Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2005*. The report provides data collected from students, staff, and communities in order to present many different perspectives on crime and safety. The full report is available online, as a PDF file, from www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/iscs05.htm.

Teens, Crime, and the Community

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Ada, OK
March 2, 2006
Boys & Girls Clubs Youth
Safety Corps (YSC)
Training (closed event)
For more information on
YSC trainings, contact
Rahniesha Lewis at
rlewis@ncpc.org.

Ogden, UT
March 20-23, 2006
17th Annual National
Youth Crime Prevention
Conference and
International Forum
Contact: www.ycwa.org

Denver, CO
March 26-29, 2006
33rd National Conference
on Juvenile Justice
Contact: [www.ncjfcj.org/
content/view/470/315/](http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/470/315/)

Meridian, ID
April 24-25, 2006
Community Works
Implementation Training
Contact:
www.idahocrimeprevent.org

FEATURED NCPC YOUTH PROGRAMS

YOUTH OUTREACH FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE (YOVA): SPOTLIGHT ON SNOHOMISH COUNTY HEALTH AND SAFETY NETWORK

The YOVA project (a joint effort of NCPC and the National Center for Victims of Crime) mobilizes teams of youth and adults to create public awareness campaigns in their communities. These campaigns educate youth on issues such as dating violence, assault, hate crime, and harassment, and they encourage teen victims to seek help.

The Snohomish County Health and Safety Network in Everett, WA, became a YOVA site in 2004. In 2005 it was selected to be a mentor site to new organizations joining the YOVA project. After the first national training, the teens decided to focus their campaign on teen dating violence. The cornerstone of their campaign was a workshop that helped young people identify dating violence and nurture healthy relationships. The teens presented the workshop in area middle schools and videotaped the presentations. In December 2005 alone, they presented to over 150 young people at an area middle school, and they have received invitations to present at other schools this spring. The YOVA teens also created a brochure and magnet to remind teens of ways to get help if they experience dating violence. This year the site plans to design car window stickers to distribute at a car wash. These YOVA teens are proud to be spreading messages about teen dating violence and methods for youth to get help. Jacky Earl, one of the YOVA teens, comments, "In some ways, I feel like I might be saving someone's life. That is a really great feeling."

For more information on YOVA, click on the "Programs" link at www.ncpc.org.

BE SAFE AND SOUND: SPOTLIGHT ON GECAC COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

Be Safe and Sound is an NCPC initiative that offers a community-based model for making schools safer and more secure. The model enables parents, school leaders, community members, and students to work together to identify and address safety and security concerns.

The GECAC Community Charter School, in Erie, PA, became a Be Safe and Sound site in June 2005. The school formed a Safety and Security Council with broad-based representation, engaging parents, students, and community service providers. The council conducted a needs assessment that included parent and student surveys and a building assessment. Eight concerns were identified and presented to the broader community at a Safety and Security Forum, where participants were engaged in identifying objectives for addressing each concern. Participants appreciated the opportunity to "discuss openly and constructively the safety and security issues at the school." Based on their feedback, the council developed a comprehensive action plan that included measures to reduce incidents of bullying, fighting, vandalism, and disrespect in bathrooms, hallways, and the lunchroom. A character-building curriculum will be implemented in classrooms. Staff will work with Student Council officers to foster discussion and respect among peer groups. Moreover, the school will purchase surveillance cameras and dome mirrors to improve monitoring so that unsafe behavior will have immediate consequences. The GECAC Community Charter School believes that these actions will foster a safer and more learning-conducive environment.

For more information on Be Safe and Sound, check out the "Programs" link at www.ncpc.org.

We're Looking for a Few Good Programs!

TCC staff are collecting information about exceptional TCC programs for a new monograph. If you have a great *Community Works* or Youth Safety Corps program and would like to share some of the highlights and challenges, service project success, and the impact this program has had on your students and the broader community, send an email to Lori Brittain at Lbrittain@ncpc.org.

If you have a question or concern you would like to see answered here, email tcc@ncpc.org.