

Marijuana Focus Group –

2.10.2009

Availability:

Dealers are based in New Bedford and many street-level dealers are in the high schools – they are youth. Many teachers know which students are involved. “All about the \$” in terms of supply – as long as there is demand there will be supply.

Community Laws / Norms : New law on marijuana could have implications. Town is currently drafting a by-law to make it illegal to smoke marijuana in public. Pot paraphernalia is sold at kiosks at the Barnstable County Fair

Geography in Falmouth lends itself to isolation ==kids are spread out with no transportation, getting high is something you can do “from the comfort of your own home”

Rolling papers and blunt wrappers are available and sold in convenience stores.

Favorable Attitudes

Parents / families are medicating themselves

Students with ADHD or other learning disabilities are self-medicating / other mental health issues

Very well-educated community – many parents have experimented on college campuses and there is a low perception of danger.

Woods Hole is a “laid back” environment where marijuana use is common place.

“Summer Attitudes” prevail – as a tourist community, kids look up to the ‘summer’ folks who come in with more money – they want smoke marijuana to fit in with this crowd

Kids are influenced by my space, facebook, music and pop culture with favorable messages on marijuana use.

Parents / youth do not understand the dangers and health risks = dangers are not “in our face” and there is a belief that it is not an introductory drug.

Lack of things for kids to do in town – no movie theater, lack of opportunities for work in the off-season, programs such as DPW for youth should be expanded, idea of involving and paying youth to do volunteer / civic work in town was brought up.

What else do we need to find out:

Observational data on community celebrations that are favorable to marijuana use.

Data on influence of pop culture

Data on link between ADHD and self-medication.

Survey / focus groups on parental attitudes needed.