

Prescription Drugs Focus Groups

2.10.09

ATOD Problem: Non-medical use of prescription drugs

Abused very widely all of over the Cape, Oxycontin his highly available

Prescription drug abuse is leading to increased heroin use

High numbers of young adult (mid-20s) heroin overdoses , deaths and suicides

Youth report use at highschool, between classes and at parties

No sense of consequences

Availability

Kids get it from other kids, parents medicine cabinets, youth access online, drs. Prescriptions for wisdom teeth, injuries and pain meds.

What else should we learn about this: learn more about how kids access it, disposal methods, pharmacy and doctor prescribing habits and policies.

Community Laws and Norms

Overly prescribed to young people – medicate abruptly

Nutritional alternatives not highly pushed

Training is needed for drs. And ER on substance abuse and appropriate dispensation

More police data needed: laws, violations, consequences

Favorable parental attitudes and involvement in drug use

Parents often make older youth responsible for monitoring their own ADHD meds and are unaware when pills are missing.

Parents do not appropriately dispose of unused pain meds.

What else do we want to find out about this: increased parental education and awareness, accountability, responsibility of pill dispensing and disposing.

Youth Attitudes:

Youth are willing to take risks ... we ran out of time at this point...