



IDAHO OFFICE OF DRUG POLICY



October 2015



Photo Credit: Peg Owens, Copyright: Idaho Tourism

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
CCI FALL CONFERENCE
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: St. Vincent de Paul
DRUG TRENDS: Marijuana Concentrates



NATIONAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

October is National Substance Abuse Prevention month, an observance dedicated to highlighting the vital role of substance abuse prevention in both individual and community health and to remember those who have lost their lives to alcohol and drugs.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) states:

Every day, far too many Americans are hurt by alcohol and drug use. From diminished achievement in our schools to greater risks in our roads and in our communities, to the heartache of lives cut tragically short, the consequences of substance abuse are profound. Yet, we also know that they are preventable.

Preventing drug use before it begins—particularly among young people—is the most cost-effective way to reduce drug use and its consequences. The best approach to reducing the tremendous toll substance abuse exacts from individuals, families and communities is to prevent the damage before it occurs.

The 2016 Substance Abuse Prevention theme is: "Unleashing the Collective Power of Communities". We know that when communities unite for positive change, they are powerful. Make it a goal to take a simple action this month to prevent substance abuse. [Click HERE to learn ways to make a difference in schools, the workplace, with parents and in the community.](#)

CCI Fall Conference

Community Coalitions of Idaho (CCI) is offering coalition training for coalition members and leaders.

At this training, you will learn how to maximize your prevention efforts by increasing your knowledge of coalition development, management and sustainability. There will also be valuable information regarding prescription take-back programs, Idaho drug trends, as well as networking and sharing with other Idaho coalitions.

Date: October 29 & 30

Location: Coeur d'Alene, Best Western Plus

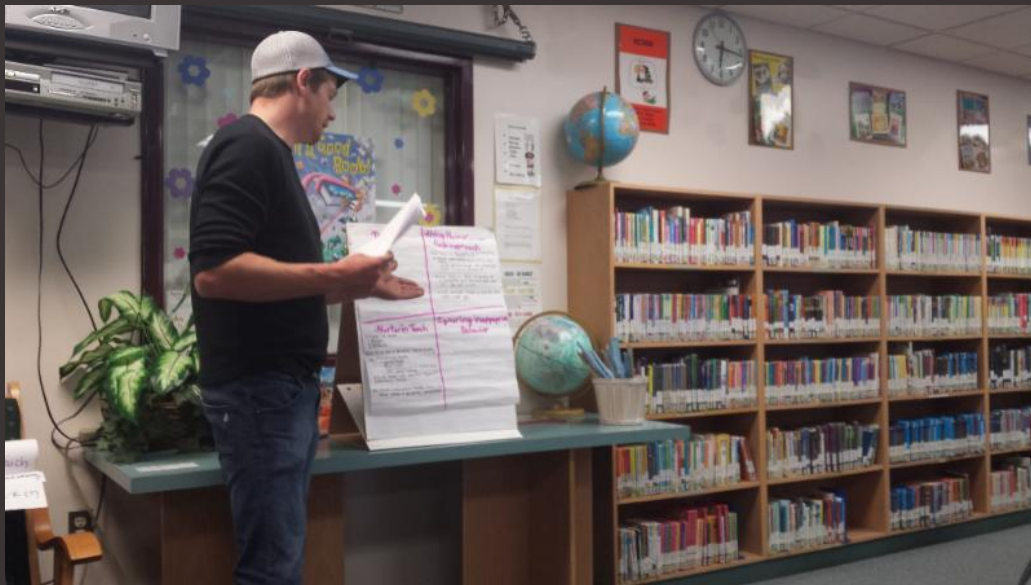
More Information: [Conference Flyer](#)

[Registration Form](#)

[Scholarship Application](#)



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: ICARE -- St. Vincent de Paul



Program participant leads a parenting class.

ICARE, a program of St. Vincent de Paul, is a non-profit organization that has served Kootenai County since 1992. The heart of the ICARE Program is Home Visits. Nationally certified parent educators provide a series of individualized Home Visits to better meet the needs of specific high risk families. Strengthening families benefits us all.

Since 2009, St. Vincent de Paul has offered an array of best-practice parenting classes including Nurturing Parenting and Nurturing Fathers. Nurturing Parenting is a recognized substance abuse prevention program. These classes are offered to the community in our Transitional Housing program, and ICARE has recently connected with the county to bring the Nurturing Parenting program into the public safety building. ICARE also has six nationally certified facilitators in Stewards of Children, a sexual abuse prevention training.

Our Transitional Housing parenting classes use the Nurturing Parenting model to deliver the curriculum to both parents and children with a collaborative lesson where children and parents develop the same tool such as empathy, praise, and keeping families drug and alcohol free. The community classes have evolved to incorporate a parent led session where the parents become the teachers and choose a topic to facilitate and deliver to the class.

Parenting is one of the toughest and most important jobs we will ever do, and we all have a stake in the outcome. Research shows that parents who have the tools, resources and support they need are more likely to raise safe, healthy and productive children.

DRUG TRENDS: Marijuana Concentrates

Story by Deni Hawkins, KBOI
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BOISE, Idaho (KBOI) – Doctors are warning about a potentially dangerous drug that's gaining traction in the Treasure Valley, and in the state of Idaho.



It's a more concentrated form of marijuana called BHO, sometimes referred to as a dab, wax, honey, or hash oil. Police say the potent pot is about five times stronger than green leaf cannabis.

"They're taking green leafed marijuana and using butane to leach the THC out of it," said Dr. Mark Urban, an emergency room physician.

"It's really different than anyone's ever seen," Boise Police Cpl. Jermaine Galloway said. "The one scary part is, the THC content—the active ingredient that actually gets you high—is so much higher. Generally we're talking 12 to 15 percent street level, as far as what everyone knows to be the green leafy substance. This product can push 80 to 90 percent."

The drug is easily disguised, because it looks nothing like traditional weed.

"That green leafy plant-like material now looks like an amber color, it looks like a dark black tar-type consistency," Galloway said.

It's also easily concealed, and can be carried in lip balm containers, baked in sweets, or inhaled through a bong or vape pen.

"The issue with it is it doesn't have the same smell as marijuana," Urban said. "The classic smell people may be familiar with is not present with wax or honey, so you could potentially just use it going to the grocery store."

Hash oil has been around for a long time. While it's not a new trend, law enforcement says it's thriving like never before.

"It's one of the top growing trends we're seeing across the country," Galloway said. "This is a big deal."

Both recreational and medical marijuana are illegal in Idaho. But with several of

our neighboring states legalizing some form of the drug, police say the more concentrated form is more available than ever and is seeping into Idaho.

The drug can give users a faster, stronger high. Some say the drug is medically beneficial, but doctors warn that it can come with dangerous consequences.

"Some of the things we're seeing medically are upwards effect of amphetamine toxicity," Urban said. "It can cause hallucinations, agitation, sweating, violence, aggression. Not just your typical high."

Urban says he hasn't personally seen anyone come into the ER after smoking wax.

"We haven't really seen wax and honey spike yet, at least that we know of," he said.

But police say that could change, because the drug is already well-established in the Treasure Valley.

"It's here," Galloway said. "We've seen it, we've talked to people, it's popular. If you look on posts, blogs, some local, some across the country, they're openly talking about it."

Galloway has spent a lot of time working with law enforcement agencies, school districts and hospitals to educate them about wax.

"The issue is we weren't really aware of it," Urban said of local emergency rooms.

Doctors say it's too early to know the long term effects of the drug. But investigators say dabbing is here to stay, and will continue to evolve.

"It's a big revolving circle that I think we're going to continue to see more issues with moving forward," Galloway said.

"When you talk treatment, when you talk addiction, when you talk depression...all these things that we've already seen people in marijuana treatment for, are we thinking that's now going to change?"

Galloway says getting everyone up to speed on the drug and what to look for is the first step.

"We will always be behind, but the goal is to, instead of being a mile behind, just being a little bit behind."

Police warn that this drug can be hard for parents to spot. Galloway said his best advice for parents is to act on any gut feelings you may have, keep an open dialogue with your kids, and do your research.

Story link [HERE](#).

MISSION: The Idaho Office of Drug Policy leads Idaho's substance abuse policy and prevention efforts by developing and implementing strategic action plans and collaborative partnerships to reduce drug use and related crime, thereby improving the health and safety of all Idahoans.

VISION: The Idaho Office of Drug Policy envisions an Idaho free from the devastating social, health, and economic consequences of substance abuse.



304 N 8th St, Room 455 Boise, Idaho 83720



STAY IN TOUCH



Phone: (208) 854-3040

Email: nicole.fitzgerald@odp.idaho.gov